

Senate Bill 371

By: Senators Stoner of the 6th, Mullis of the 53rd, Seay of the 34th, Pearson of the 51st and Hamrick of the 30th

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

To amend Code Section 32-6-200 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the installation of protective devices at railroad grade crossings, so as to provide for legislative findings; to define a certain term; to provide that local school districts shall provide the Department of Transportation with information regarding rail crossings without active warning devices that are used by school buses; to provide that local school districts shall use best efforts to reroute buses to minimize use of such crossings; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

The General Assembly is interested in increasing safety at railroad crossings, especially crossings used by school buses, and therefore finds that certain legislation may enhance such safety.

SECTION 2.

Code Section 32-6-200 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the installation of protective devices at railroad grade crossings, is amended by inserting at the end thereof a new subsection to read as follows:

"(d)(1) As used in this subsection only, the term 'active warning devices' means automated control gates, lights, and warning bells, used singly or in any combination.

(2) Each local school district in this state shall survey its established school bus routes annually and submit to the Department of Transportation a list identifying each rail crossing that does not have active warning devices on an established bus route. Each local school district shall be required to submit this information to the department each year by no later than July 1.

(3) Each local school district shall exercise best efforts to minimize the number of established school bus routes that cross rail crossings that do not have active warning devices.

(4) The department shall use the information about school bus routes as an important factor in selecting rail crossings to upgrade with active warning devices."

SECTION 3.

This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2009.

SECTION 4.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.